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Message Text

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60
ACTION ARA-02

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PA-01 INR-01 /005 W
---------- 067702
P R 181950Z JUN 74
FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
TO USINFO WASHDC PRIORITY
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 3961
USIA/VOA MIAMI

UNCLAS BRASILIA 4449

USIAC

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, BR, XF
SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION REPORT

1. PRESIDENT NIXON'S MIDEAST TOUR: MODERATELY PROMINENT MEDIA PLAY CONTINUES. BOTH NATIONAL TV NETWORKS' JUNE 17 PRIME-TIME NEWSCASTS DEVOTED GOOD PORTION OF THEIR INTERNATIONAL SEGMENT TO COVERAGE OF VISIT TO ISRAEL, REPORTING THAT BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE FROM JERUSALEM PRESIDENT NIXON ANNOUNCED SIGNATURE OF AN ACCORD ON NUCLEAR COOPERATION WITH ISRAEL, UNDER SAME TERMS OF THAT SIGNED WITH EGYPT. TV GLOBO REPORTED SECSTATE KISSINGER'S WITHDRAWAL FROM PRESIDENTIAL PARTY TO PARTICIPATE IN THE NATO MEETING IN CANADA, INFORMING THAT KISSINGER REAFFIRMED HIS DISPOSITION TO RESIGN IF HIS HONOR IN ANY WAY IS AFFECTED BY ACCUSATION OF INVOLVEMENT IN TELEPHONE BUGGING OF CONVERSATIONS. SAMPLE NEWSPAPER HEADLINES: LIBERAL FOLHA DE SAO PAULO FRONT-PAGE REPORT: "KISSINGER OPTIMIST IN JERUSALEM"; INFLUENTIAL O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO: " KISSINGER EXALTS MISSION'S SUCCESS; STORY SAYS THAT "... AT A PRESS INTERVIEW IN JERUSALEM, SECSTATE KISSINGER NOTED THAT PRESIDENT NIXON'S TRIP TO MIDEAST INDIRECTLY CONTRIBUTED TO ISRAEL'S SECURITY. HE STATED HIS BELIEVE THAT"THANKS TO NEGOTIATIONS CARRIED OUT BY THE U.S., FOT THE FIRST TIME THE ARAB WORLD IS BEGINNING TO ACCEPT EXISTENCE OF
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ISRAEL AS A NATION. ..." (JUNE 18).

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2. WEEKLY NEWS MAGAZINE VEJA OF JUNE 19 CARRIES 2-PAGE
STORY WITH HEADLINE "AN ARAB FEAST FOR NIXON" WHICH SAYS:
"...DESPITE THE GREAT IMPORTANCE OF NIXON'S MISSION IN
MIDEAST, THE HIGHLIGHT OF HIS TRIP WAS THE VISIT TO CAIRO.
... WITH ORIENTAL POMP AND THE MOST WILD ARAB ENTHUSIASM,...
LAST THURSDAY RICHARD NIXON MADE A TRIUMPHAL APPEARANCE
AT THE ARAB WORLD, BEGINNING EXACTLY IN ITS MOST
REPRESENTATIVE DOOR, THE DECISIVE CITY OF CAIRO. ...
THE RECEPTION GIVEN TO THE AMERICAN PRESIDENT WAS
UNANIMOUSLY CONSIDERED THE GREATEST RECEPTION EVER GIVEN
BY EGYPT TO A CHIEF OF STATE, INCLUDING THAT OF KRUSCHEV
IN 1964 ON THE OCCASION OF THE ASWAN DAM INNAUGURATION.
AND FOR RICHARD NIXON, PERSONNALLY, THAT WAS THE MOST
IMPRESSIVE RECEPTION HE HAD IN HIS WHOLE POLITICAL
CAREER. ..."

3. JORNAL DA TARDE CHARGES AGAINST SECSTATE KISSINGER: CONSERVATIVE
JORNAL DA TARDE (SAO PAULO) EDITORIAL HEADLINED "IT
IS DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND THE U.S. MEDIA" SAYS:
"...HTHE LACK OF CONSICENCE OF CERTAIN AMERICAN
MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES IS SO AMAZING THAT ONE OF THE
LEADING-LIGHTS OF THE NEW YORK TIMES, JAMES RESTON,
ATTRIBUTED TO FATIGUE KISSINGER'S ENERGETIC REACTION
TO CHARGES AGAINST HIM. ...IT IS DIFFICULT TO
UNDESRSTAND THE COHERENCE OF THE MEDIA. PRESIDENT
NIXON IS CRITICIZED BECAUSE HE DID NOT RESIGN DESPITE
THE WATERGATE SCANDAL; NOW THE U.S. SECSTATE IS
CRITICIZED BECAUSE HE THREATENS TO RESIGN WHEN HIS
NAME IS INVOLVED IN A SIMILAR AFFAIR. WHAT WOULD
THEN BE THE ATTITUDE THESE JOURNALISTS WOULD APPROVE?
PERHAPS NOT EVEN TRY, THEMSELVES, KNOW THE ANSWER.
FOR THEM, IN FACT, A REFUSAL TO RESIGN OR A THREAT
OF RESIGNATION SEEM TO BE SECONDARY IN A GAME
WHOSE MAIN OBJECTIVE IS -- AS EVERYTHING INDICATES,
TO UNDRMINE THE AMERICAN NATION, ITS VALUES, ITS
PRESTIGE, ITS INSTITUTIONS, DESTROYING THE MEN WHO
HOLD ITS POWER." (JUNE 17).

4. VEJA CARRIES A ONE-PAGE REPORT ON THE SECSTATE'S
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REACTION, SAYING THAT "... HIS UNEXPECTED REACTION,
AT A MOMEMNT WHEN HIS PRESTIGE REACHED HIGHEST
LEVELS -- WHEN BEING ACCLAIMED AS THE GREAT PEACE-
MAKER BETWEEN SYRIA AND ISRAEL AND AS THE AUTHOR
OF THE IMPOSSIBLE TASK OF BRINGING SOME PEACE TO
THE TUMULTUOUS MIDEAST PANORAMA -- SHOWED AN UNKNOWN
FACET OF THE SECSTATE: UNEXPECTEDLY VULNERABLE TO
CRITICISM AND IMPREDICTABLE EMOTIONAL REACTIONS. ..."

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS SUMMARIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 JUN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740158-1072
From: BRASILIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740637/aaaabfkx.tel
Line Count: 116
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 NOV 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <06 NOV 2002 by MorefiRH>; APPROVED <06-Nov-2002 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MEDIA REACTION REPORT
TAGS: PFOR, BR, XF
To: USIA
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

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